

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR CLOSING SESSION OF OASGA

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH FROM MAILLIARD

1. FOLLOWING IS ROUGH DRAFT ON WHICH I INTENDED TO BASE MY REMARKS AT CLOSING SESSION. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE WHOLLY APPROPRIATE FOR YOU, I HOPE IT WILL GIVE YOU AN ADEQUATE FOUNDATION FROM WHICH TO WORK.

QUOTE: ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT JOINING THE CITY OF ATLANTA IN HOSTING THIS MEETING OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION AND A PLEASURE. IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GATHER TOGETHER A MORE CONGENIAL GROUP THAN THIS. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF THIS HEMISPHERE; THE STAFF OF THE OAS SECRETARIAT; REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER LANDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WHO ARE OBSERVERS HERE - ALL CONSTITUTE AS COSMOPOLITAN AND FRIENDLY A GROUP AS ONE COULD WISH FOR. TIME AND TIME AGAIN I HAVE HEARD THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTA EXPRESS THEIR DELIGHT AT HAVING HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER THEIR HOSPITALITY TO THE FINE PEOPLE WHICH THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER HERE. I BELIEVE THAT - QUITE APART FROM ITS

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WORK - THIS MEETING HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANTE CULTURAL EVENT

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONS OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS,
CULTURES AND LANGUAGES TO GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

I BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT TO HOST THIS MEETING IN ATLANTA WAS AN EXTREMELY
HAPPY ONE. EVEN WE OF THE U.S. DELEGATION HAVE FOUND IT
AN ADVENTURE TO GET AWAY FOR AWHILE FROM WASHINGTON TO A
MORE TYPICALLY AMERICAN COMMUNITY. JUDGING FROM
THE COMMENTS OF MANY OF THE REST OF YOU, I GATHER THAT
YOU HAVE FOUND IT AS REFRESHING A VISIT AS WE HAVE.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF AND MY ENTIRE DELEGATION
WITH THE MANY COMMENTS I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE
FRIENDLINESS AND HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTA.
WE HAVE ALL HAD A FIRST HAND VIEW OF SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY.
AT THE RISK OF LEAVING OUT SOME VERY IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS
IN THE LOCAL PLANNING FOR THIS MEETING, I WOULD LIKE TO
EXPRESS THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
FOR ALL THE WORK DONE BY GOVERNOR CARTER AND MAYOR
JACKSON AND THEIR STAFFS, AS WELL AS THE HARD-WORKING
PEOPLE OF THE ADELANTE ATLANTA COMMITTEE AND THE
HUNDREDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE OPENED THEIR HOMES
AND HEARTS TO US. WE ALSO OWE THANKS TO THE GEORGIA
LEGISLATURE AND THE OTHERS WITH OFFICES IN THIS LOVELY
BUILDING FOR THEIR KINDNESS IN TURNING THEIR FACILITIES
OVER TO US.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS THE GOVERNOR OR THE MAYOR
OR SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WEATHER --
OR HANK AARON'S HOME RUN ON OAS NIGHT AT THE STADIUM.
WHOEVER DESERVES THE CREDIT FOR THESE THINGS HAVE ADDED
TO OUR PLEASURE. PERHAPS I SHOULD DEVOTE A KIND WORD TO THE
LOCAL PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION, TOO, FOR THEIR FINE
COVERAGE OF THIS ASSEMBLY. IN WASHINGTON WE ARE ACCUSTOMED
TO BEING OVERSHADOWED BY A VISITING HEAD OF STATE AND HOT
DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE DAY.

I WANT TO SPECIFICALLY THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC FOR SENDING THE RONDALLA STUDENT GROUP FROM THE
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO WHO ENTERTAINED SO
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GENEROUSLY AND BEAUTIFULLY; THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO FOR THE STEEL BAND SOLO HARMONITES WHICH WAS
ALMOST SYMPHONIC IN ITS VERSATILITY; AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF MEXICO FOR THE DRAMATIC FOLK DANCE GROUP FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA AND FOR THE SUPERB COLLECTION
OF SIQUEIROS PAINTAINGS. THESE AND THE MANY PROGRAMS
SPONSORED BY THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTA TRULY MADE OUR
CONFERENCE AS MUCH A MAJOR CULTURAL EVENT AS AN IMPORTANT

FORUM.

SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS REGRETS THAT HE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE FINAL SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE HAS ALSO SENT A MESSAGE TO HIS EXCELLENCY FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES OF ECUADOR, WHO HAS SO ABLE SERVED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS ASSEMBLY IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ABSENCE. I TRUST THAT THE CHAIR WILL FORGIVE ME FOR READING THIS MESSAGE TO THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY:

(READS)

MR. CHAIRMAN, I DO NOT HESITATE TO ADD MY VOICE TO THAT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IN THANKING YOU FOR DEMANDING AND DIFFICULT JOB SPLENDIDLY AND GRACIOUSLY PERFORMED.

EVERYONE HERE IS AWARE OF THE SINCERE EFFORT WHICH IS BEING MADE BY ALL OF OUR GOVERNMENTS TO BRING THE AMERICAS CLOSER TOGETHER. I BELIEVE THAT HERE IN ATLANTA, WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO THAT EFFORT - BOTH AS DIPLOMATS AND INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS, AND AS INDIVIDUALS. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, WE HAVE NOT ONLY CONCLUDED A SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES; WE HAVE ALSO ENRICHED OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION - AND HAVE HAD REWARDING PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE PROCESS.

ONCE AGAIN, OUR DEEP THANKS TO ALL THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE OF ATLANTA, AND TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

END QUOTE

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